

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A washing machine comprising:

a first tub;

a second tub disposed in the first tub;

at least one circulation duct operatively coupled with the first tub to receive air from the second tub, dehumidify the air and recirculate the dehumidified air back into the second tub to dry laundry in the second tub during a drying operation of the washing machine; and

a water supplying duct for supplying external water to an upper part of the inside of an inner wall of the at least one circulation duct to dehumidify the air in the at least one circulation duct primarily by flowing down the inner wall from said upper part and coming in direct contact with air received in the circulation duct;

wherein the one circulation duct has a plurality of grooves with helical configurations provided at an inner wall surface thereof for prolonging a heat exchange time period of the hot and humid air by reducing the flow speed of water along the inner walls of the circulation duct.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a fan disposed at a portion of the at least one circulation duct; and

a heater disposed at a portion of the at least one circulation duct for applying heat to the air flowing in the at least one circulation duct to dehumidify the air.

4. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fan is a sirocco type fan.

5. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an external air supplying duct for supplying external air towards the at least one circulation duct; and

an external air fan disposed at an inlet area of the external air supplying duct to draw the external air into the external air supplying duct.

10. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 1, further comprising:

an external air supplying duct for supplying external air towards the at least one circulation duct, said external air supplying duct having an outlet disposed in said at least one circulation duct; and

an external air fan disposed at an inlet area of the external air supplying duct to draw the external air into the external air supplying duct.

11. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external air supplying duct has an outlet disposed outside the at least one circulation duct for supplying the external air to an outer surface of the at least one circulation duct.

12. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

at least one cooling fin disposed at an outer surface of the at least one circulation duct to dehumidify the air in the at least one circulation duct.

13. (Previously Presented) A washing machine, comprising:

a first tub;

a second tub disposed in the first tub;

a structure operatively coupled with at least one of the first and second tubs to receive air from the second tub, dehumidify the air and recirculate the dehumidified air back into the second tub to dry laundry in the second tub during a drying operation of the washing machine;

a feed water valve for supplying external water to the washing machine; and

a tub cover for discharging the external water to inner walls of the first tub to dehumidify air in the first tub during the drying operation.

14. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, wherein the structure further includes:

a water supplying duct disposed between the feed water valve and the tub cover for transporting the external water from the feed water valve to the tub cover.

15. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, wherein the tub cover has a flow passage having a plurality of water spraying holes disposed on a bottom portion of the tub cover.

16. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

at least one cooling fin disposed at an outer surface of a circulation duct of the structure to dehumidify air in the circulation duct.

17. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 9, wherein the external air fan is an axial type fan.

18. (Previously Presented) A washing machine, comprising:

a first tub;

a second tub disposed in the first tub;

multiple circulation ducts operatively coupled to the first tub to receive air from the second tub, dehumidify the air and recirculate the dehumidified air back into the second tub to dry laundry in the second tub during a drying operation of the washing machine; and

a single cooling fin having the circulation ducts pass therethrough to dehumidify air in the circulation ducts.

19. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a pulsator operatively coupled with the first and second tubs.

20. (Original) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a drain duct coupled with the first tub to discharge water out of the washing machine.

21. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 20,
wherein an opening of said drain duct into said first tub is located at a spaced
location from an opening of the at least one circulation duct into said first tub.

22. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at
least one circulation duct has a plurality of grooves provided at inner wall surfaces thereof.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 15, wherein the flow passage is placed on the first tub and arranged around an outer circumference of the second tub.

25. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 24, wherein the plurality of water spraying holes are arranged at fixed intervals for uniformly spraying the water in the passage onto the inner walls of the first tub.

26. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one circulation duct has a plurality of grooves with helical configurations provided at an inner wall surface thereof for prolonging a heat exchange time period of the hot and humid air by reducing the flow speed of the water along the inner walls of the circulation duct.

27. (Currently Amended) The washing machine as claimed in claim 18,
further comprising a tub cover for discharging external water to inner walls of the first tub to dehumidify air in the first tub during the ~~drying~~ drying operation.

28. (Previously Presented) The washing machine as claimed in claim 27, wherein the tub cover has a flow passage placed on the first tub and arranged around an outer circumference of the second tub, further wherein the flow passage has a plurality of water spraying holes disposed on a bottom portion of the tub cover and arranged at fixed intervals for uniformly spraying the water in the passage onto the inner walls of the first tub.

29. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a tub cover for discharging external water to inner walls of the first tub to dehumidify air in the first tub during the drying operation.

30. (New) The washing machine as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the tub cover has a flow passage placed on the first tub and arranged around an outer circumference of the second tub, and

wherein the flow passage has a plurality of water spraying holes disposed on a bottom portion of the tub cover and arranged at fixed intervals for uniformly spraying the water in the passage onto the inner walls of the first tub.

31. (New) A washing machine, comprising:
a first tub;
a second tub disposed in the first tub;
at least one circulation duct operatively coupled with the first tub to receive air from the second tub, dehumidify the air and recirculate the dehumidified air back into the second tub to dry laundry in the second tub during a drying operation of the washing machine; and
a device that discharges external water to inner walls of the first tub to dehumidify air in the first tub during the drying operation.